NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AGENCY
TEN-DAY AGROMETEOROLOGICAL BULLETIN
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SUMMARY

During the first dekad of May 2009, dry, sunny and hot weather condition were prevailed in most parts of the country, this satiation might have a water stress impact on perennial crops as well as Belg crops that are found at early vegetative stages and at different phonological stage and for pasture and drinking water availability. On the other hand, on the beginning and last days of the dekad rainfall was observed over western, southwestern, southern, and pocket areas of northwestern, northeastern and eastern parts of the country. As result over SNNPR, western and southern Oromia, Bale highlands, Gambella, western and eastern Amhara, Diredawa, Benshangul- Gumuz and pocket area of southern Tigray received rainfall. This situation favored for Belg agricultural activities, land preparation and sowing of long cycle crops, and perennial crops, as well as availability of drinking water and pasture.

During the second dekad of may 2009, better rainfall activities were observed over eastern Tigray , Afar, central and eastern Amahara, much of Oromia ,SNNPR, Gambela and Somali. The situation might have positive impact on agricultural activities, Belg crops at different phase of growth, perennial crops supply of drinking water and improvement of pasture particularly over pastoral and agro pastoral parts of the country. On the other hands, dry sunny weather condition was dominated over much of northern half of the country, hence, the condition of the rise of maximum air temperature above $40^{o}C$ over some lowland areas of the country that might have increased the rate of evapo-transpiration thereby deplete the existing soil moisture on long cycle crops, perennial crops, pasture and drinking water supply.

1. WEATHER ASSESSMENT

RAINFALL AMOUNT (Fig.1)

Pocket area of northern and southern tip of SNNPR and much of southern Oromiya received 100–200 mm rainfall. Much of southern, southeastern and southwestern Oromiya, Gambela and pocket areas of northern Somalia exhibited 50-100 mm of rainfall. Much of southern portion of Somalia, Oromia and pocket areas of northern tip of Gambela experienced 25–50 mm rainfall. While, much of Benshagul-Gumuz, northern Oromia, northern Somali and pocket area of northern, central, southern and southeastern Amhara, and southeastern Tigry and southern Afar received 5–25 mm rainfall. The rest parts of the country exhibited little or no rainfall.

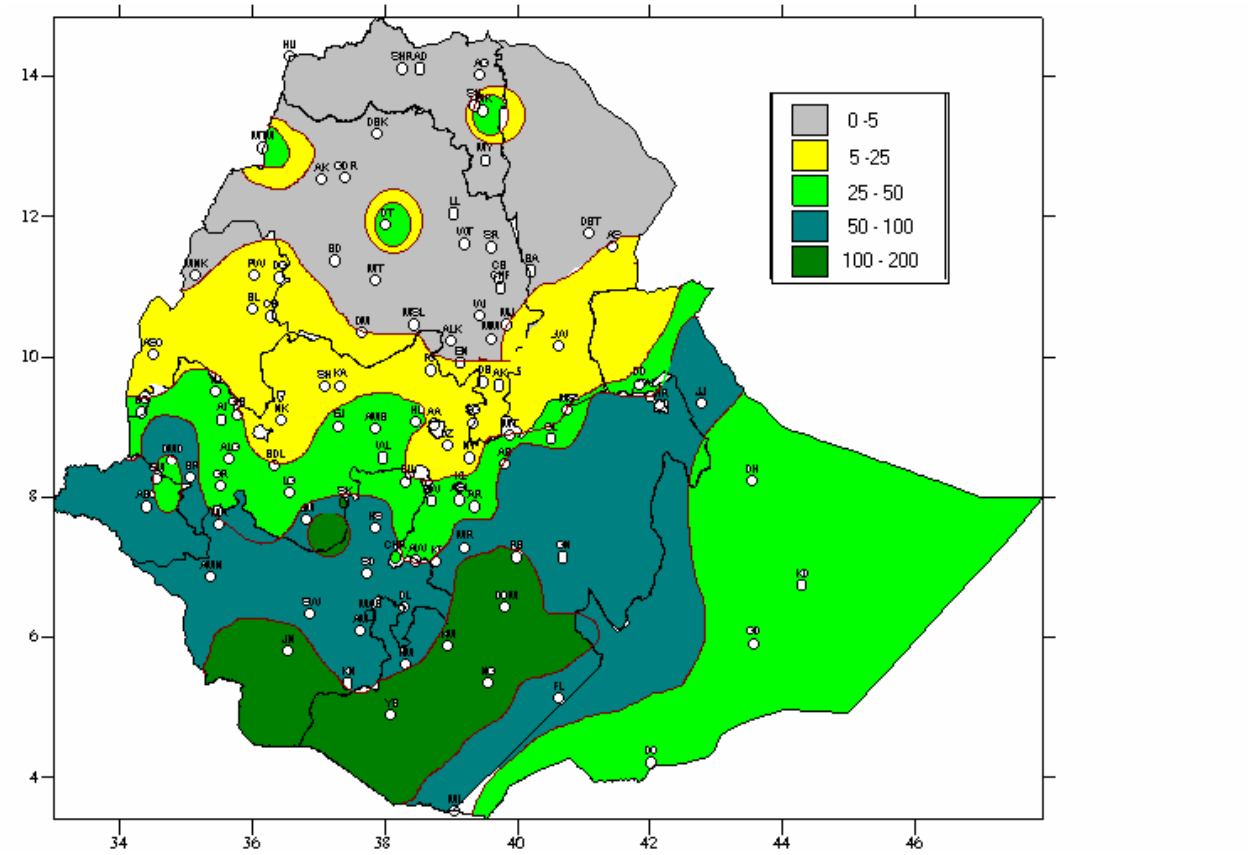

Fig 1 Rainfall distribution in mm (11-20 May 2009)

1.1.2 RAINFALL ANOMALY (Fig. 2)

Southern Oromia, western half of Somali, parts of central Oromia, and southwestern Ethiopia experienced normal to above normal rainfall while, the rest parts of the country exhibited below normal to much below normal rainfall

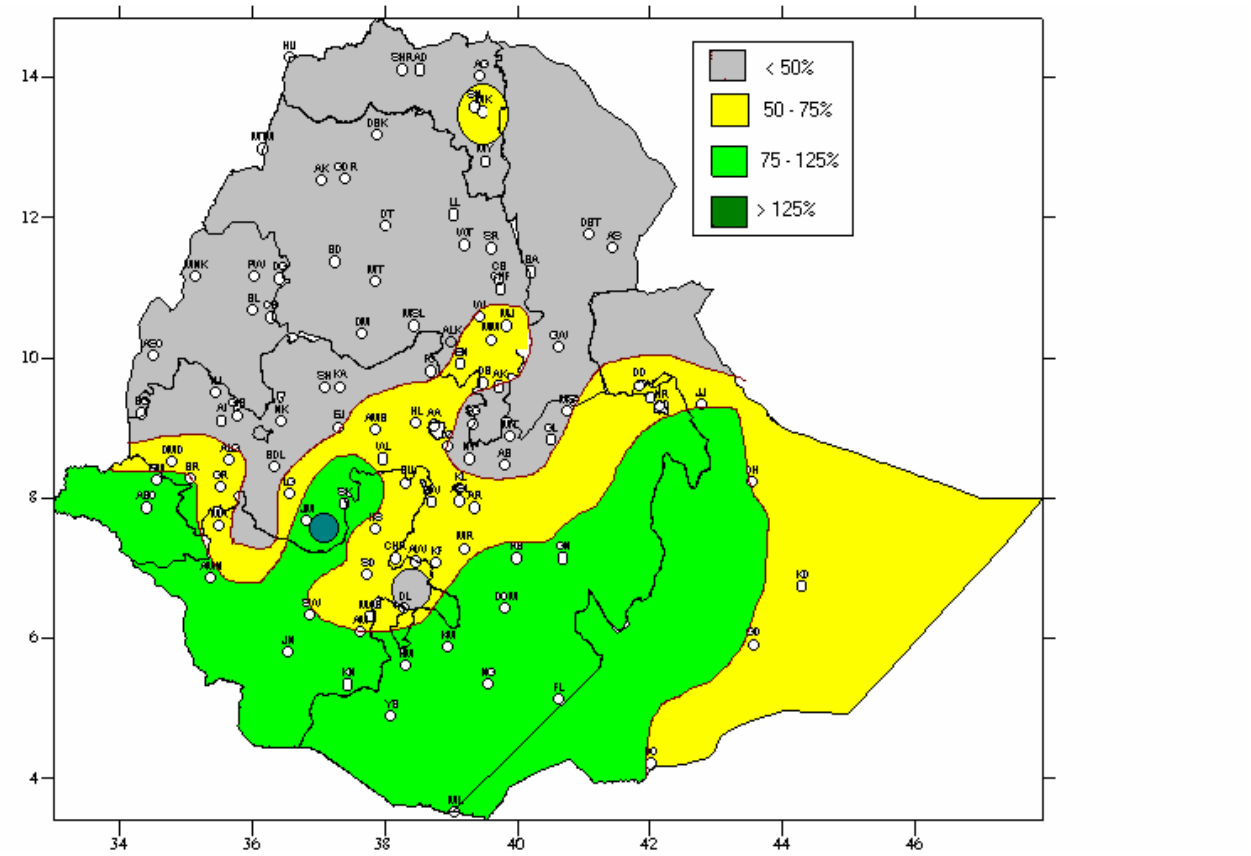

Fig.2 Percent of normal rainfall (11-20 May 2009)
Explanatory notes for the legend:

<50 -- Much below normal
50—75% -- below normal
75—125% --- Normal
125% ---- Above normal

1.1.3 TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

Some stations in the low lands of the country recorded extreme maximum temperature greater than 35 ^{o}C. Among the reporting stations Dire Dawa, Gode, Metehara, Aisha, Assayita, Dubti, Gambela, Humera, Mankush, Metema, Mille, Pawe, Semera, Sirba Abaya and Mytsemri reported 36.5, 36.5, 38.0, 38.5, 41.0, 41.0, 42.9, 37.5, 37.5, 40.4, 42.5, 41.0, 38.5, 41.5, 39.0 and 37.5 ^{o}C respectively. The situation is not suitable for normal growth and development of most crops, plants and animals for their physiological activities.

2. AGROMETEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION AND IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Better rainfall activities were observed over eastern Tigray, Afar, central and eastern Amahara, much of Oromia, SNNPR, Gambela and Somali. The situation might have positive impact on the overall agricultural activities, Belg crops at different phase of growth, perennial crops supply of drinking water and improvement of pasture particularly over pastoral and agro pastoral parts of the country. On the other hands, dry sunny weather condition was dominated over much of northern half of the country.

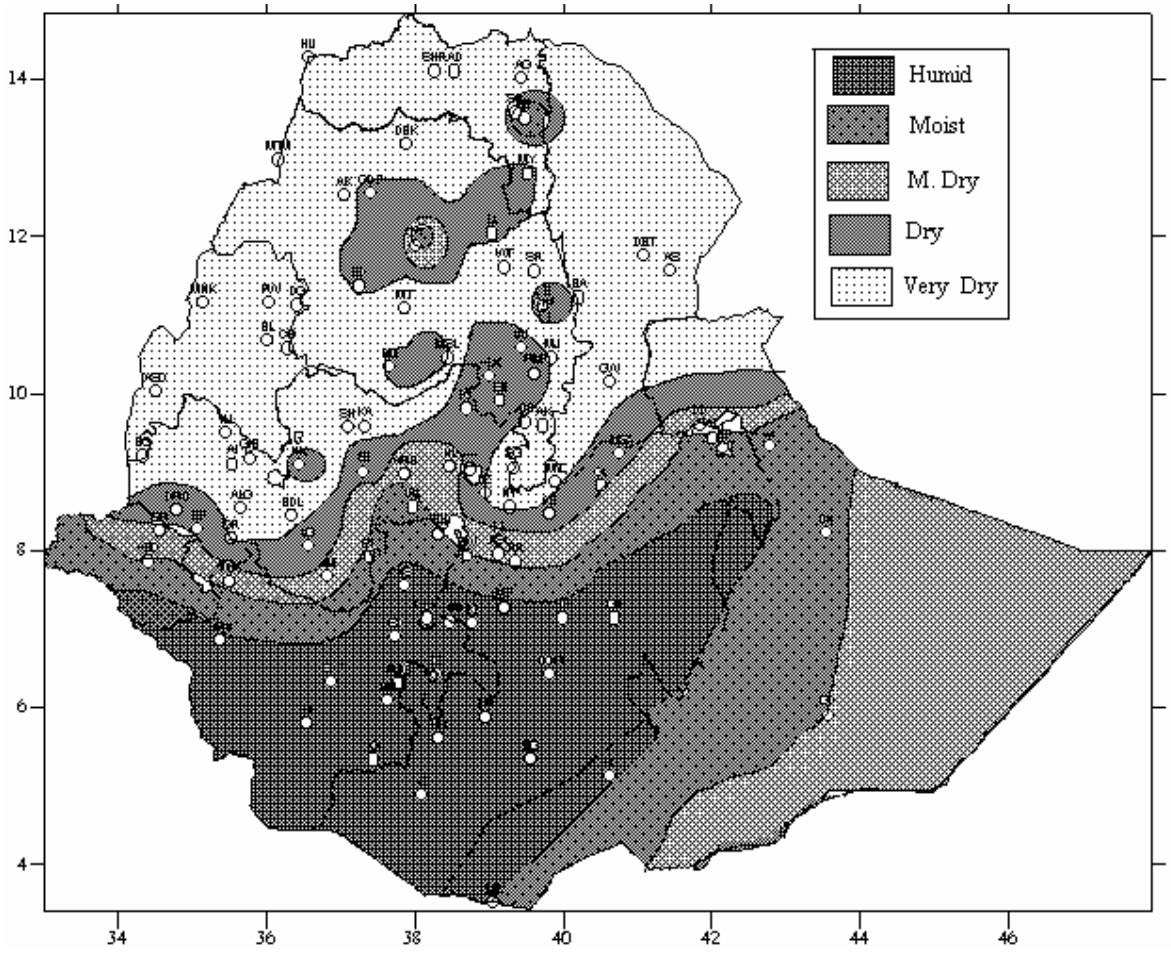

Fig.3 Moisture Status for (11-20 May 2009)

As indicated on Fig.3, most parts of southern, southeastern and southwestern portion of the country exhibited humid to moist condition, while eastern and northern Somalia, northern Gambela, pocket areas of northern Tigray, central and eastern Amhara received moderately dry condition, thus, the situation might have favored Belg agricultural activities, perennial crops, availability of drinking water and pasture. While, the rest parts of the country observed dry to very dry condition which, might have a negative impacts on Belg agricultural activities, availability of drinking water and pasture.

3.2 EXPECTED WEATHER IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE DURING THE COMING DEKAD

In the coming third dekad of May 2009, in line with the onset of Kiremt season better and above normal rainfall activities will be expected over different parts of Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, western Amahara, and Oromia. In addition western half of Tigray, eastern Amahara, Somali, eastern, central and southern Oromia, Dire Dawa, and Hareri expected to receive near normal rainfall. The situations will have positive impact on land preparation, sowing of different Meher crops, perennial crops and long cycle crops. In general, the situation will create conducive conditions for the coming Kiremet season agricultural activities. On the other hand, the expected increase of maximum temperature over the low lands areas of the country will have negative impact on supply of pasture and drinking water over pastoral and agro pastoral areas of the country.